POL 14 VIETS

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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izuberg DATE 11/24/82
EDS OF XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED QUESTION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES WE MIGHT PROVIDE GVN IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTIONS. GENERAL GUIDANCE WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING, AND WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ALL MISSION ELEMENTS, IS THAT WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TRANSPORT VOTERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS OR CANDIDATES IN AMERICAN-MARKED AIRCRAFT. WE WILL NOT TRANSPORT BALLOT BOXES OR USE US PSYWAR ASSESTS DIRECTLY. WE WILL AVOID IDENTIFIABLE PARTICIPATION IN CAMPAIGN OR VOTING PROCESS. WE WISH TO AVOID PROVIDING SUBSTANCE TO HAOI AND VC RADIO PROPAGANDA LINE THAT ELECTIONS ARE AMERICAN DEVICE INTENDED TO DUPE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. WE

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ALSO DO NOT WANT VIETNAMESE TO FEEL THIS, REGARDLESS OF VC PROPAGANDA. WE ARE, HOWEVER, FURNISHING LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN MOVING ELECTION MATERIALS INTO THE FIELD AND JUSPAO HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN PROVIDING MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CHIEU HOI WITH VALUABLE SUPPORT IN THE PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF ELECTION MATERIALS. I HAVE ALREADY DIRECTED THAT THE MISSION, INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, RELIEVE VNAF OF ROUTINE MISSIONS TO ENABLE IT TO MEET LIFT REQUESTS FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS TO MOVE CANDIDATES AND OTHERS FROM PLACE TO PLACE DURING THE CAMPAIGN. SE WE ARE ALREADY PREPARED TO DO WHAT YOU SUGGEST IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL.

2. IT IS POSSIBLE BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY THAT EXTRAORDINARY REQUESTS OUTSIDE OR IN CONFLICT WITH

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THE ABOVE GENERAL GUIDLINES MAY ARISE. WE ARE PREPARED

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TO CONSIDER EACH SUCH CASE PROMPTLY AND DECIDE
IT ON ITS OWN MERITS. IT MAY BE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES
MAY DICTATE AN EXCEPTION IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CASES.
THE GVN APPEARS TO BE ALREADY MAKING
GOOD PROGRESS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THESE ELECTIONS.
IT LOOKS NOW AS THOUGH MAXIMUM PROPAGANDA BENEFIT WILL BE
DERIVED IF THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IS KEPT TO AN
IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST AND GET ALL VITAL
INFORMATION TO YOU SOONEST.
LODGE
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